

**From:** Joel Bramlitt  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/5/02 2:49am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I'd like to express my opinion regarding the Microsoft antitrust lawsuit.

I am a citizen who makes his living by supporting Microsoft products. I was very alarmed when I first heard about this lawsuit, because I feared it could possibly affect my livelihood. I have followed it very closely, and was very relieved when I heard a settlement had finally been reached. Now, I am concerned again. The nine states that did not agree with the settlement are jeopardizing the whole deal for what appear to be less than honorable reasons.

The way I understand it, the heart of the antitrust laws are intended to protect the consumer. From what I've read and heard, Microsoft's competitors seem to be the true beneficiaries of the proposed "alternate settlement". Is it a coincidence that they are mostly headquartered in the holdout states? I think not. To me this clearly political maneuvering on the part of the aforementioned competitors. They are angry at Microsoft, and instead of creating superior products to compete in the marketplace, they want to cripple Microsoft in the courts. The way I see it, if the nine other states and especially the U.S. Government agree on a remedy, that's what it should be. The holdout states obviously have agendas that have nothing to do with what's best for the consumer.

I, along with everyone I talk to feel this has gone on long enough. Our country is in a very different type of crisis right now. One that vastly overshadows this particular case. I hope the court will consider this, and put an end to the vengeful tactics of Microsoft's competitors. We cannot continue to punish success, and reward mediocrity.

Thank you for your time.

Joel Stephen Bramlitt

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